

Attachment 1  
Application for Special Temporary Authority  
To Operate Pursuant to Wireline Competition Bureau Authority

REASONS FOR REQUEST FOR SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY

This is a request for Special Temporary Authority ("STA"), submitted pursuant to Section 63.03 and 63.04 of the Commission's rules, seeking temporary authority to allow U.S. Connect, LLC ("US Connect") to operate while the pending Domestic 214 Transfer of Control application, filed concurrently herewith, is completed. US Connect respectfully requests 60 days temporary authority while the Domestic 214 Application is reviewed.

US Connect, the holder of the 214 domestic authority, seeks Commission approval of a transaction which resulted in an initial change in the ownership of US Connect by virtue of a Membership Interest purchase in 2016 involving its corporate parent, Great Wireless, LLC which did not receive prior FCC approval. US Connect is a Georgia limited liability company headquartered in Dallas, Texas, and holds blanket section 214 authority to provide domestic telecommunications services, and operates as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") in the states of Arkansas, Maryland and West Virginia.

The transaction took place at the corporate parent level and the company apologizes for failing to request approval for the membership interest change, and wishes to make full disclosure of all substantive and non-substantive changes which have occurred involving US Connect.

US Connect was formed as a limited liability company in the State of Georgia in January, 2011.

A Grant of Special Temporary Authority Will Serve the Public Interest. This STA has been filed at the direction of the Commission staff to accompany the filing of the Transfer of Control of the Membership Interests in U.S. Connect LLC's corporate parent, Great Wireless, LLC from Suleman Bhimani to Porter USA Enterprises, Inc. A grant of the STA is needed to allow US Connect to continue to operate its telecommunications network pending Commission action on the 214 Application. US Connect's Domestic 214 license authorized US Connect to provide interstate resale service within the United States. US Connect is an active domestic carrier, presently providing Eligible Telecommunications Carrier services in the states of Arkansas, Maryland and West Virginia. As such, the public interest will be served by granting this STA request to allow uninterrupted provision of US Connect's services. In further support of this request, the Commission is respectfully requested to consider that US Connect has acted in good faith to rectify its failure to file for approval of the transfers of control listed herein, admitting its failure to comply with Commission rules, and seeking approval of the Application.

Steps Taken by US Connect to Ensure Future Compliance with FCC rules. US Connect has taken steps to ensure future compliance with Commission rules.<sup>1/</sup> To ensure future compliance

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<sup>1</sup> US Connect previously utilized the services of Visi Consulting to oversee its compliance. However, Visi unexpectedly ceased operating and US Connect was not provided with timely notice of this event.

with FCC rules, US Connect will consult with Communications counsel on a regular basis as necessary to remain advised and up to date on Commission regulatory requirements affecting its operations. In addition, US Connect will maintain a current copy of Part 63 of the Commission's rules at its headquarters in Dallas, Texas, and has engaged Patrick Hardy, Consultant, to oversee compliance with FCC rules and regulations and coordination with communications counsel.

Requested Duration for Special Temporary Authority. US Connect requests 60 days temporary authority while the 214 Application is pending. The past ownership interests in US Connect were held by United States and Canadian citizens. After the transaction which is the subject of this transfer application, the ownership interest in US Connect will be held solely by a US citizen.

Acknowledgment. US Connect hereby acknowledges that the grant of this STA request will not prejudice any action the Commission may take on the underlying application seeking Commission approval of their 214 International Authority. The parties further acknowledge that this STA can be revoked by the Commission upon its own motion without a hearing.